National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Tribal Elder Protection Team- Toolkit

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Honor ~ Respect ~ Dignity National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

The Beginning

How did we meet?

Tribal agency questions?

Wilsons professional assistance needed!!!

Conference Calls = Collaboration

What came from these calls?



What is a Tribal Elder Protection Team

A Tribal Elder Protection Team (EPT) is a group of professionals, the elder, family members, and community members from diverse disciplines.

- The EPT provides assistance to the elderly person to promote coordination among service programs available to elders.
- Improve lines of communication to efficiently address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Various professional disciplines are represented
- Membership is limited and is not open to all service providers, or members of the public.

Tribal Elder Protection Team





Why create a EPT?

- ❖To reduce stereotypes around elder abuse
- To improve standardized protocols to increase resources available to elders
- ❖To improve appropriate responses to elder abuse
- ❖To improve communication and coordination among service agencies, thereby saving valuable time locating advocates and addressing safety concerns for the elder
- To improve elder abuse training for professionals
- To reduce underreporting of elder abuse



Why are Elder Protection Programs

Different?

Elder Protection programs vary across Indian Country in terms of:

- Available infrastructure including agencies and personnel responding to incidents
- Jurisdictional considerations
- Availability of traditional justice systems
- Tribal and/or State civil or criminal courts



Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs- MDT Protocol Example¹

- 1) Establish and define MDT member roles and responsibilities
- 2) How do you define an elder or vulnerable adult?
- 3) A report of suspected elder abuse is made, now what happens?
- 4) Who conducts the investigation of elder abuse in your tribal community?
- 5) What is the time frame for responding to a report of elder abuse?
- 6) Why should a MDT/EPT have members rotate being "on-call"?
- 7) Who is a member of the MDT/EPT, and why?
- 8) How are MDT members assigned to an elder?
- 9) What is included on a client case summary sheet?
- 10) What happens in the MDT meeting?
- 11) What happens if the elder abuse case goes to tribal court?
- 12) When do you know the case is resolved?



Who is a EPT Member?

One of the most successful models for addressing elder abuse in Indian Country is utilized by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) in Oregon. The CTWS-MDT representatives have served their tribal community since 1999 through a multidisciplinary team approach.

The CTWS- MDT members include representatives from:

- The Senior Wellness Center,
- Tribal Police,
- Tribal Prosecutor's Office,
- BIA/Tribal Social Services,
- Tribal Housing Authority,
- Indian Health Service (IHS),
- Community Health Representatives (CHR),
- Victims of Crimes Office,
- Assisted Living, and
- the Oregon Adult Protective Services.



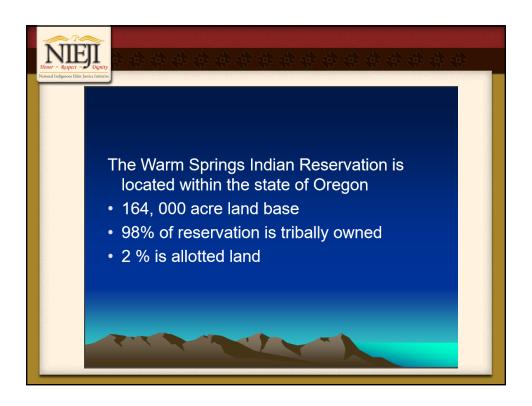
Who is the EPT Coordinator?

- Ensure the EPT is managed appropriately
- To increase accountability of team members, it is recommended to designate an EPT Coordinator or Director.
- This individual may have dual roles on the EPT as the coordinator, and as a representative for a tribal agency (e.g. Title VI Director).

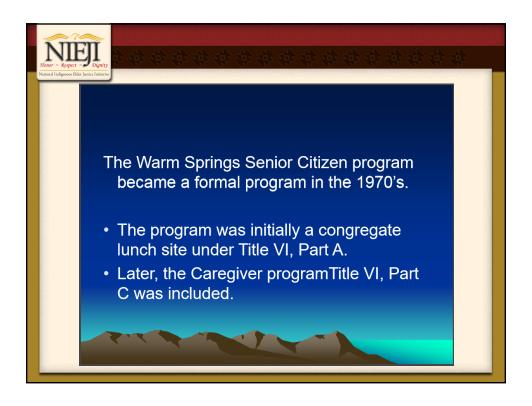
This team member will facilitate a group of professional community members in the unification of collaborative efforts to assist elders who may be experiencing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



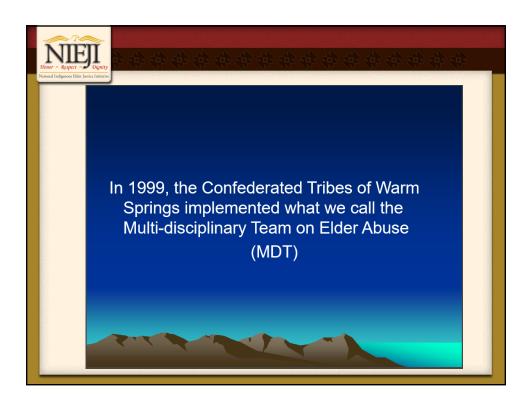


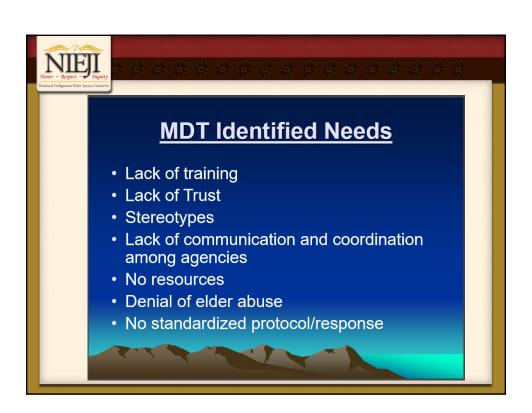




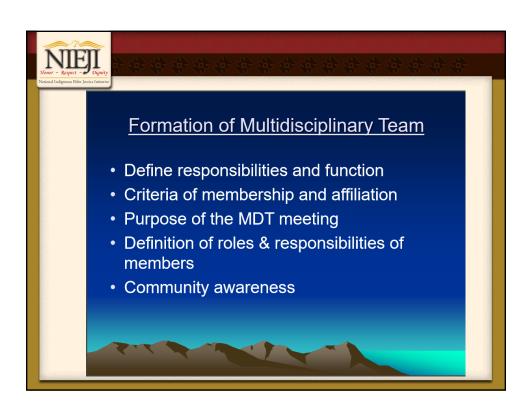


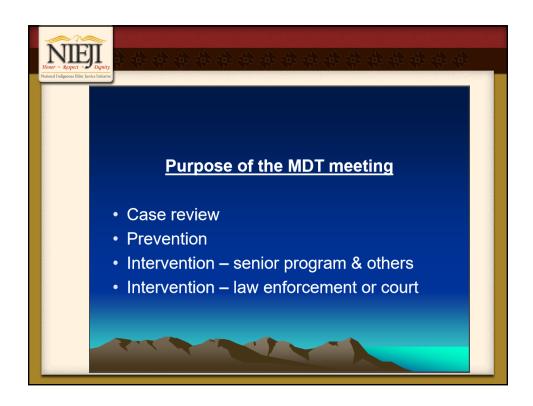


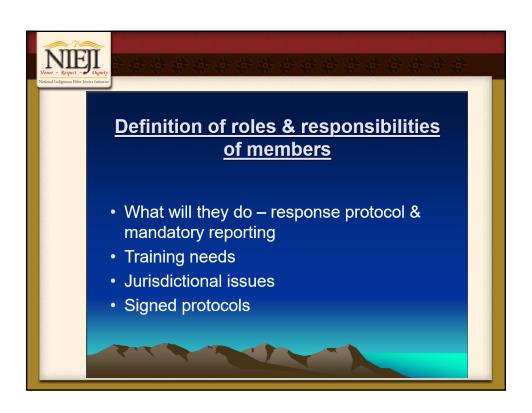


























How to Develop a Tribal EPT?

Getting Started

- 1. Build a team of professionals.
- 2. Identify the tribal community's concerns for elders through a Community Needs Assessment
- 3. Complete a Statement of Needs summary report
- 4. Develop organizational rules for the EPT
- 5. Develop a tribal elder protection code
- 6. Learn about State and Tribal Laws in your area
- 7. Program considerations include:
 - Identify technical experience available to launch the EPT (e.g., computer resources)
 - Determine if there are sufficient economic resources available
 - Determine the legal requirements or restrictions for the EPT
 - Develop a business plan and budget addressing how the EPT will operate
- 8. Develop a sustainability plan



EPT Challenges

- Attendance issues (not having a large variety of agencies represented),
- A lack of commitment from representatives to attend meetings regularly,
- ❖ A lack of cases presented
- A lack of knowledge of other agencies' policies and mandates, that often leads to a negative perception that some agencies are non-cooperative
- Frustration among agencies in dealing with seemingly unsolvable cases
- Maintenance of confidentiality
- Costs, travel time to meeting location
- Mandated Reporter policies

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For More Information

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Thank You! Miigwech

